Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to remind that the previous Government had thought in the Cabinet that this subsidy to such religious *yatra* should be reduced step by step. Has any step been taken by the Government?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, surely I do not have the liberty of divulging the decisions of the Cabinet which were not made public. So far as this question is concerned, subsidy is not merely in one area. Subsidies in large areas are being reviewed from the broad economic point of view, but not from this viewpoint that subsidy is given to a particular purpose or a particular pilgrimage and, therefore, it should be reduced. We do not subscribe to that type of view. Yes, one can appreciate overall reduction of subsidy to facilitate and to have a better fiscal management. The approach should not be to reduce the 'X' or 'Y' subsidy of Haj pilgrimage.

The second point is that subsidies are increasing not only because the number of pilgrims are increasing or the cost of operation is increasing or the cost of air travel is increasing. Since 1995, Haj pilgrimage through ships is abandoned. All of them are being transported in a specific period of time through airlines. A lot of logistic arrangements have to be made. We require during a particular period of time a large number of aircrafts which are not available. So, we are helping through Air India and Indian Airlines. They are put into operation and they are doing their best. The cost is also increasing substantially from year to year apart from the number of piigrims, which are increasing year to year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Visit of relatives of PoWs in Pakistan

*166. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of kith and kins of 1971 war prisoners, reportedly lodged in Pakistani jails visited Pakistan recently on an invitation extended by Government of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that on reaching Pakistan, they were not allowed to visit the jails;

(d) whether Government took up the matter with the Government of Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A group comprising members of the families of missing defence personnel visited Pakistan from June 11-14, 2007. They visited 10 jails in Pakistan.

Indian prisoners were presented before the relatives. The visiting family members did not come across missing defence personnel in the jails they visited. However, it was confirmed that one of the missing personnel had been killed in action and not taken Prisoner of War.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Drop in mobile phone singals

*167. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that locations close to cantonments, defence areas and airports report signal drops in mobile phones;

(b) if so, whether TRAI has issued some guidelines for giving relaxation to the companies; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) While there is a restriction on height of the towers for mobile phones within seven kilometers of the airports, there is no such restriction in other areas. Some of the companies have indicated that there is a problem in getting permission for setting up of towers and availability of sites in and around these areas. TRAI has not issued any guidelines for giving relaxation to the companies in this regard. TRAI periodically monitors the Quality of Service of mobile telephone service of all the Telecom Access Service Providers.

Cases received by CIC

*168 DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases (appeals/complaints) received by the Central Information Commission (CIC);

(b) the total number of cases in which reviews have been filed;

(c) the number of cases in which non-compliance with CIC orders has been reported;

(d) the number of cases in which delay in providing information has been reported and out of these in how many cases, show cause notice for imposition of penalty has been issued and financial penalties were finally imposed;

(e) the number of cases in which financial penalty was withdrawn after having been imposed; and

(f) the number of cases that have been disposed of without holding any hearing?